

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04087 280926Z
ACTION PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7916

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 04087

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : MILI, TW, US, OTRA (MILTON, THEODORE R.)
SUBJECT : VISIT TO TAIWAN JULY 2, 3, AND 5 OF RETIRED
USAF GENERAL THEODORE R. MILTON

1. TDC HAS JUST INFORMED EMBASSY THAT MILTON, A RETIRED, FOUR-STAR GENERAL, WHO IS NOW WRITING FOR AIR FORCE MAGAZINE, WOULD LIKE TO VISIT TAIWAN IN ORDER "TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR STORIES ON MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND STRATEGIC AIRLIFT AND U.S. FORCES IN THE PACIFIC." ALTHOUGH HE IS RETIRED, THE NOTICE OF HIS TRIP CAME TO TDC BY AN OFFICIAL TELEGRAM ORIGINATING AT SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE AND SAID HE WOULD BE TRAVELLING BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND WOULD HAVE AN ESCORT OFFICER.

2. OUR LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT MILTON WILL ARRIVE ON THE EVENING OF SUNDAY, JULY 2, MAKE CALLS AT THE EMBASSY, TDC, MAAG, AND ON ROC MILITARY OFFICIALS ON JULY 3, VISIT HONG KONG ON JULY 4, AND RETURN TO TAIPEI FOR A FINAL DAY OF DISCUSSIONS, POSSIBLY WITH ROC MILITARY OFFICERS, ON JULY 5. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS TRIP, SINCE IT INVOLVES A RETIRED MILITARY OFFICER, DOES NOT REQUIRE OSD/ISA CLEARANCE.

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3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ATTEMPTING TO FIND OUT FROM DEPARTMENT OF AIR FORCE ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING THE PURPOSE OF MILTON'S VISIT. IF HE IS MERELY A JOURNALIST, WE SHALL TREAT HIM AS SUCH AND WILL NOT DISCUSS CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE USE OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND ACCOMPANYING ESCORT SUGGESTS OTHERWISE.

4. WE EXPECT MILTON TO INDICATE TO TAIWAN PRESS HIS SUPPORT FOR ROC AND OPPOSITION TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. THE JUNE 17 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA POST CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON FRONT PAGE STATING THAT THREE RETIRED U.S. GENERALS - BRUCE HOLLOWAY, BRUCE PALMER, AND MILTON - WARNED ON U.S. BREAKING TIES WITH THE ROC. RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE ARTICLE READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. THREE RETIRED FOUR-STAR GENERALS OF THE U.S. HAVE WARNED AGAINST ANY MOVE BY THE U.S. TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH RED CHINA ... IN A BOOK PUBLISHED RECENTLY BY THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON. THE TITLE OF THE BOOK IS "GRAND STRATEGY FOR THE 1980S"... GENERAL THEODORE R. MILTON, FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE . . . POINTED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROC TO THE U.S. UNQUOTE. UNGER

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